

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Description of amendments

Applicant has amended claim 6. Claims 6 and 9 are now pending and under examination. No new matter has been added.

The amendment to claim 6 is supported by the application as originally filed (see, for example, the second full paragraph on page 80 of the specification).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mouri (U.S. Patent 6,010,247) and by JP 10-318255, which is the Japanese counterpart of Mouri. For the following two reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to amended claim 6 and claim 9.

First, Applicant has added to claim 6 the limitation that the axially outer end surface of the outer rings is provided at substantially the same position as the axially outer end surface of the sleeve. This limitation is neither disclosed nor suggested by Mouri.

Second or alternatively, Mouri discloses only a bearing unit where a bearing device is mounted on a shaft but the bearing unit has no sleeve for mounting on a shaft. Although the shaft of Mouri has a hollow structure, it does not include any problem to be solved and its solution in the present invention, therefore there could not be any other reason to form a shaft with a hollow structure such as a reduction

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in weight. As described in column 1, lines 29-30 of Mouri, the shaft has a flange such that the shaft is mounted on a base, but it is not supposed to be mounted on a shaft.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038920.49554D1).

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Respectfully submitted,



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